2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION

mvc.dps.mo.gov

MISSION

MVC is “Always on Mission” to serve Veterans as their first choice in skilled nursing care; best choice in securing benefits; and proven choice in a dignified resting place.

VISION

To provide high quality, compassionate care for Veterans; seamlessly integrated with the Veteran community; emphasizing a culture of transparency and excellence.

2025 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAUL KIRCHHOFF

It is my distinct honor to present the Missouri Veterans Commission's (MVC) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025. This report gives an overview of the services and programs MVC provides and highlights the many accomplishments of our dedicated team members who support the Veteran community.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the exceptional MVC workforce which serves nearly 400,000 Missouri Veterans with dedication, transparency, and excellence. The work undertaken and the partnerships forged during the last twelve months have created many positive changes. Special thanks to Governor Kehoe for his leadership and unwavering support of Missouri's Veterans and the state workforce. I would be remiss to not mention the passing of former Commissioner Tim Smith, who dedicated over seven years to the Commission, and helped to guide MVC through challenging times.

2025 was a monumental year marked by significant progress and success. One of our proudest achievements was the signing of Senate Bill 912 and House Bill 1495 on July 11, 2024. The bills were promulgated in RSMo 42.022, charging MVC to create a Veterans Suicide Prevention Program. MVC team members worked quickly to stand up the new program, appointed a program manager, created a communication campaign, forged partnerships to leverage resources, and submitted the inaugural report to the Governor and General Assembly.

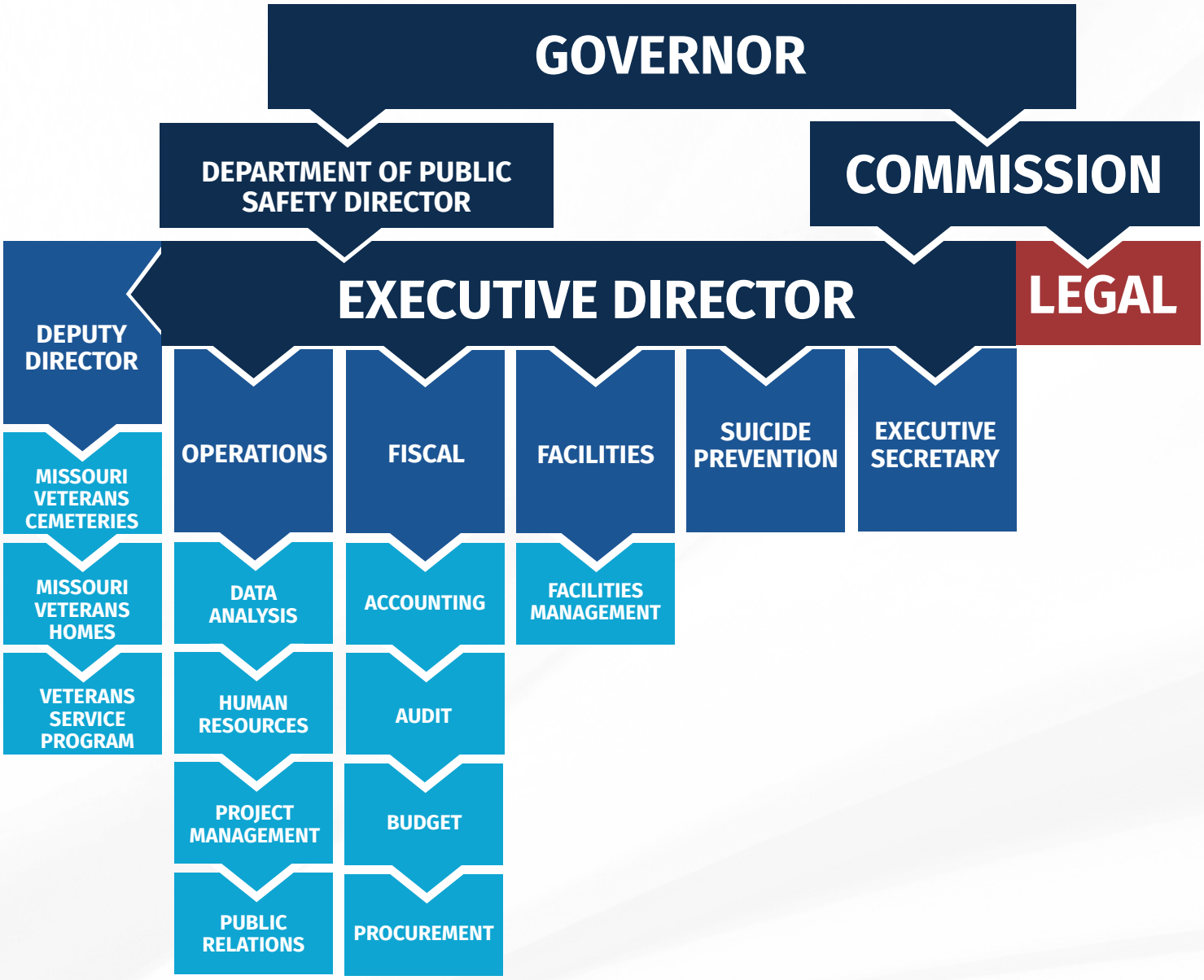
Our Veterans Service Program had an excellent year, filing 10,248 claims; 2,490 of which were for new beneficiaries. Their hard work resulted in over $21 million in new monetary benefits for Veterans and their dependents. Our Cemeteries Program honored over 2,000 Veterans and dependents through burial services, maintaining the highest standards of grounds maintenance and achieving an overall customer satisfaction rating of 98%. Each of the seven Missouri Veterans Homes received the coveted Customer Experience Award from Activated Insights, an independent healthcare satisfaction survey that recognizes health care facilities within the top 15% of care providers nationwide.

There are numerous other accomplishments and successes during FY25 which are described throughout this annual report. The MVC team has been instrumental in our successes. Their professionalism, hard work, and dedication are the reasons this organization continues to thrive. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and I am confident we will continue to build on this year's momentum.

Respectfully,

Paul Kirchhoff, Executive Director

2025 VETERANS COMMISSION OVERVIEW



2025 VETERANS COMMISSION OVERVIEW

MVC is a state agency established by Missouri Statute to aid all Veterans, their dependents, and legal representatives by providing information regarding the rights of Veterans and their dependents and to assist Veterans in accessing their available benefits through the state and federal government.

The Commission is comprised of nine individuals; four members of the General Assembly, two appointed by the House of Representatives and two appointed by the Senate, and five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

The Missouri Veterans Commission is comprised of four core programs administered by Headquarters team members and regulated by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Programs within the Commission include:

Veterans Cemeteries Program:
Six state cemeteries that provide a dignified resting place for our nation's heroes.

Veterans Homes Program:
Seven facilities that provide unparalleled care for Veterans in need of 24/7 skilled nursing.

Veterans Service Program:
50 Veterans Service Officers throughout the state of Missouri that assist Veterans and their dependents in securing state and federal benefits.

Veterans Suicide Prevention Program:
MVC works in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Mental Health to provide recommendations and make efforts to adopt procedures, programs, treatment options, and other assistance deemed necessary to assist in the efforts to prevent Veteran suicide.

MVC COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSION CHAIR
KELLY MCCLELLAND

VICE-CHAIR SENATOR
STEVEN ROBERTS

SENATOR
JOE NICOLA

REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID GRIFFITH

REPRESENTATIVE
WILL JOBE

RANDY ALEWEL

MEREDITH KNOPP

STEVE MAPLES

TIM SMITH

2025
FISCAL REVIEW

The State Veterans Home Per Diem and the resident room and care payments are the two largest dedicated revenues that source continued operations for the Veterans Homes Program. These sources are 100% dependent on the number of Veterans residing in the seven Veterans Homes. The VA reimburses expenses at a daily per diem rate based on the number of Veterans in the facilities. Room and care rates are charged to Veterans with less than a 70% service-connected disability rating.

MVC relies heavily on state funds to support continued operations. Historically, the Veterans Homes Fund relied on solvency transfers from the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF). Given the continued decline in Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) transfers to the VCCITF, cash is not available to fund its appropriations or to replace the Homes Fund revenue shortfalls.

MAJOR REVENUE SUPPORT

During FY25 MVC received major revenue support from the following sources:

1. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Federal
   - Grant program reimbursements
   - State Veterans Home Per Diem
   - Cemetery Plot Allowance
   - Cemetery Outer Burial Receptacle Allowance
   - Capital improvement projects
   - Employee retention grants
2. Room and care rates charged to Veteran residents (service connection rating below 70%)
3. Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) proceeds
4. Veterans Health and Care Fund – Medical Marijuana
5. Budget Stabilization Funds – one time funding
6. Veterans Reinvestment Funds – Adult Use Marijuana
7. General Revenue

In FY25, MGC transferred $6,298,244. This is the lowest revenue transfer from MGC in history and is not sufficient to support the requirements of the fund and to address the maintenance and capital needs of MVC assets.

Through continued financial support and commitment to Veterans from the Governor's office, General Assembly, federal and state departments, and partners, MVC has been afforded the ability to meet short-term financial obligations. Through this collaborative support during FY25, MVC's dedicated funds will remain solvent through fiscal year 2026.

Despite fiscal hardships faced by MVC, there were several financial accomplishments to celebrate in FY25 including establishing approriation authority to support the new Veterans Suicide Prevention Program and identifying funding to support the Veterans Service and Veterans Cemeteries Programs' pay strategy to encourage retention. In addition, several funds were obligated to maintenance and repair projects at Missouri Veterans Homes and Missouri Veterans Cemeteries to include roof replacements, Wi-Fi upgrades, anti-wander system replacement, and HVAC upgrades.

2025 FISCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

$52.8 MILLION
SOLVENCY CASH TRANSFERS INTO THE HOMES FUND FOR CONTINUITY IN OPERATIONS.
GENERAL REVENUE: $18,975,434
ADULT USE MARIJUANA: $20,780,603
MEDICAL MARIJUANA: $13,000,000

$8.8 MILLION
HOMES PAYROLL AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT FILLING BUDGET HELD POSITIONS TO MEET INCREASED STAFFING AND CENSUS GOALS.

$8 MILLION
MATCHING FUNDS EXPENDED TOWARD THE MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

$2.7 MILLION
GENERAL REVENUE TRANSFER TO SUPPORT THE 3.2% COLA SALARY INCREASE FOR ALL STATE TEAM MEMBERS AND 1% - 10% ADDITIONAL LONGEVITY SALARY INCREASES FOR ELIGIBLE CONGREGATE CARE TEAM MEMBERS.

$2.1 MILLION
ONE-TIME FUNDING EXPENDED TO REPLACE AGED EQUIPMENT AT ALL FIVE STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES.

$1.3 MILLION
BUDGET STABILIZATION FUNDS EXPENDED SUPPORTING MISSOURI'S RESPONSE TO VETERANS' HOMELESSNESS.

$650 THOUSAND
NEW REVENUE FROM THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION FOR OUTER BURIAL RECEPTACLES.

$360 THOUSAND
HOMES ONE-TIME FUNDING IN THE ITSD APPROPRIATION TO REPLACE THE ANTIQUATED ANTI-WANDER SYSTEM AT SIX OF THE SEVEN VETERANS HOMES.

$150 THOUSAND
EXPENDED FROM GENERAL REVENUE FOR PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS FOR TOP PERFORMING TEAM MEMBERS.

$148 THOUSAND
GENERAL REVENUE EXPENDED FOR A NEW VETERAN TRANSPORT BUS FOR THE MISSOURI VETERANS HOME - ST. LOUIS.

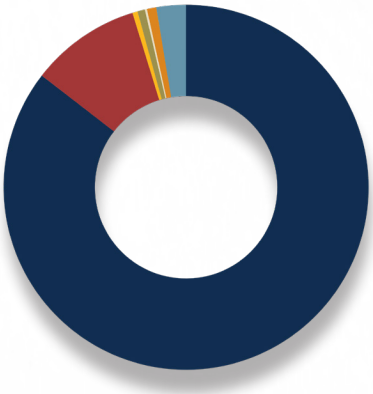
2025 FISCAL
REVENUE - ALL FUNDS

VETERANS HOME FUND	
VETERAN ROOM & CARE	$17,274,802
VA PER DIEM & RETROACTIVE CLAIMS	$79,142,551
VA RETENTION GRANT	$41,340
SOLVENCY TRANSFERS IN - MEDICAL MARIJUANA	$13,000,000
SOLVENCY TRANSFERS IN - ADULT USE MARIJUANA	$20,780,603
SOLVENCY TRANSFERS IN - GENERAL REVENUE	$18,975,434
SOLVENCY TRANSFERS IN - VCCITF	-
ONE-TIME SOLVENCY TRANSFERS IN - BUDGET STABILIZATION	-
ONE-TIME SOLVENCY TRANSFERS IN - GENERAL REVENUE	-
OTHER	$2,402,372
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$151,617,102
VETERANS COMMISSION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND (VCCITF)	
PLOT ALLOWANCE	$1,192,617
OUTER BURIAL RECEPTACLE ALLOWANCE	$652,338
CONSTRUCTION (HOMES & CEMETERIES)	$995,661
TRANSFERS IN (GAMING)	$6,298,244
OTHER	$830,654
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$9,969,514
VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND	
TRANSFERS IN (MEDICAL MARIJUANA)	-
CONSTRUCTION (HOMES)	$1,609,841
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$1,609,841
VETERANS TRUST FUND	
DONATIONS	$29,147
OTHER	$30,361
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$59,508
MVC FEDERAL	
OTHER	$26,655
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$26,655
WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL TRUST FUND	
DONATIONS	$154,293
OTHER	$6,893
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$161,187
FEDERAL STIMULUS	
ARPA FEDERAL STIMULUS (REBATES)	$469
TOTAL DEPOSITS	$469
TOTAL REVENUE ALL FUNDS	**$163,444,277**

2025 FISCAL EXPENDED FUNDS

HOMES	VSP	CEMETERIES	HQ	TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY FUND
VETERANS HOMES FUND				
$136,356,119	$835,077	-	$3,989,688	$141,180,884
VETERANS COMMISSION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND (VCCITF)				
$441,249	$5,413,207	$5,270,788	$1,466,332	$12,591,576
VETERANS TRUST FUND				
-	$14,659	-	-	$14,659
WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL TRUST FUND				
-	-	-	$150,000	$150,000
EPIDEMIOLOGY & LABORATORY CONTROL FUNDS				
$313,748	-	-	-	$313,748
BUDGET STABILIZATION FUNDS				
-	-	-	$1,339,457	$1,339,457
VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUNDS				
$1,998,219	-	-	-	$1,998,219
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS				
$5,034,927	-	$1,649,319	-	$6,684,246
GENERAL REVENUE				
$263,384	$24,028	$8,915	$8,002,801	$8,299,129
MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION FEDERAL FUND				
-	-	$464,678	-	$464,678
TOTAL EXPENDED BY PROGRAM				
$144,407,646	$6,286,972	$7,393,700	$14,948,278	$173,036,596

2025 VETERAN DEMOGRAPHICS



MISSOURI VETERANS BY **RACE**

- WHITE **318,768 / 85.5%**
- BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN **36,427 / 9.8%**
- HISPANIC/ LATINO **9,575 / 2.6%**
- OTHER **3,082 / 0.8%**
- ASIAN **2,467 / 0.7%**
- AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE **1,715 / 0.5%**
- PACIFIC ISLANDER **702 / 0.2%**

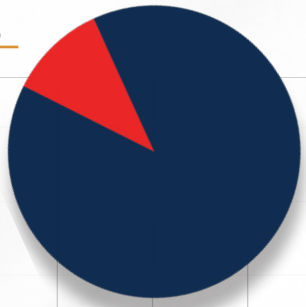
377,618
MISSOURI VETERANS

MISSOURI VETERANS BY WARTIME ERA

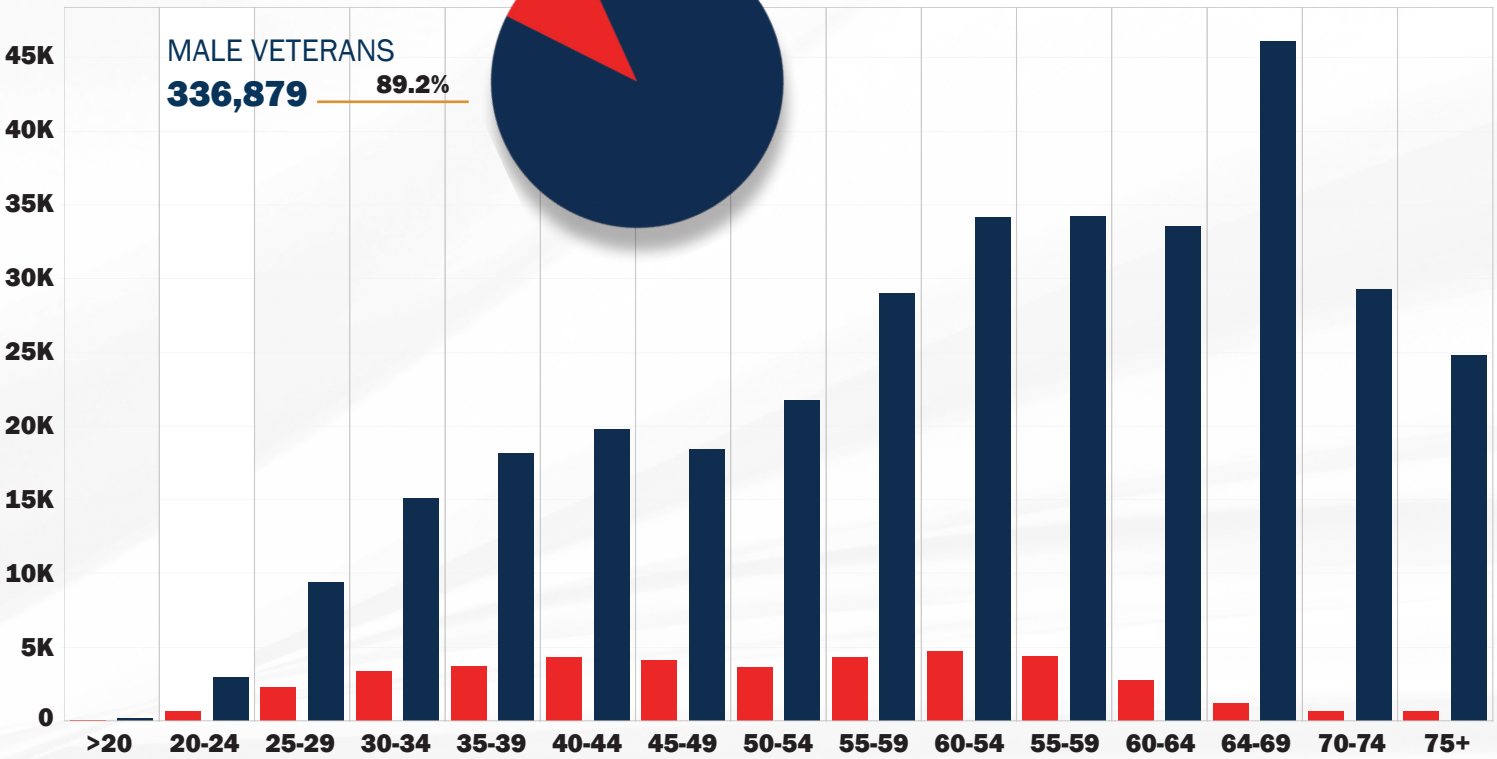
- GULF WAR **187,440 | 48.6%**
- VIETNAM WAR **110,404 | 28.6%**
- PEACETIME **79,733 | 20.7%**
- KOREAN WAR **7,178 | 1.9%**
- WORLD WAR II **907 | 0.2%**

FEMALE VETERANS
40,739 10.8%

MALE VETERANS
336,879 89.2%



MISSOURI VETERANS BY **GENDER & AGE**



* SOURCE - NATIONAL CENTER FOR VETERANS ANALYSIS & STATISTICS - VA.GOV/VETDATA/VETERAN_POPULATION.ASP

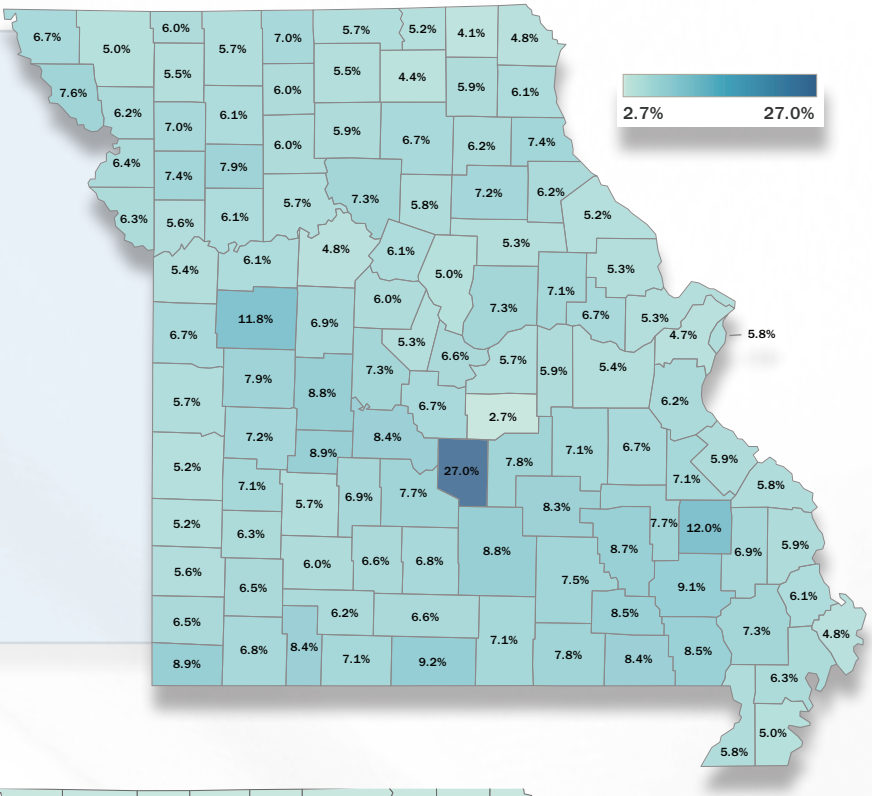
2025 VETERAN DEMOGRAPHICS

FY25 MISSOURI VETERAN **DENSITY** BY COUNTY

27%
PULASKI COUNTY

12%
MADISON COUNTY

11.8%
JOHNSON COUNTY

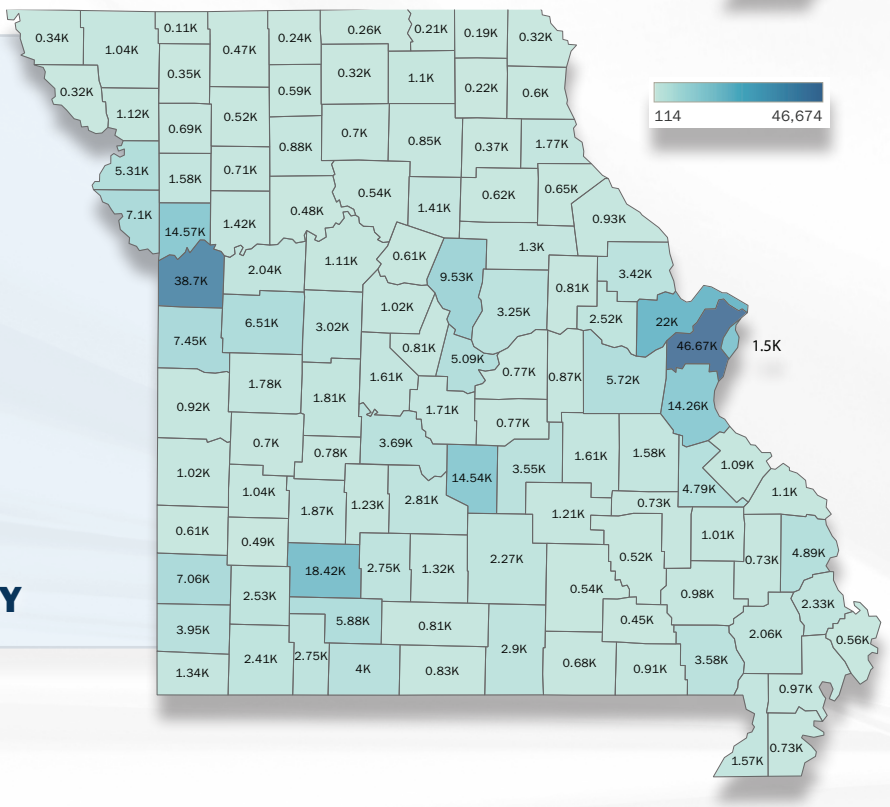


FY25 MISSOURI VETERAN **POPULATION** BY COUNTY

46.67K
ST. LOUIS COUNTY

38.7K
JACKSON COUNTY

22K
ST. CHARLES COUNTY



* SOURCE - NATIONAL CENTER FOR VETERANS ANALYSIS & STATISTICS - VA.GOV/VETDATA/VETERAN_POPULATION.ASP

2025 VETERAN CEMETERIES PROGRAM

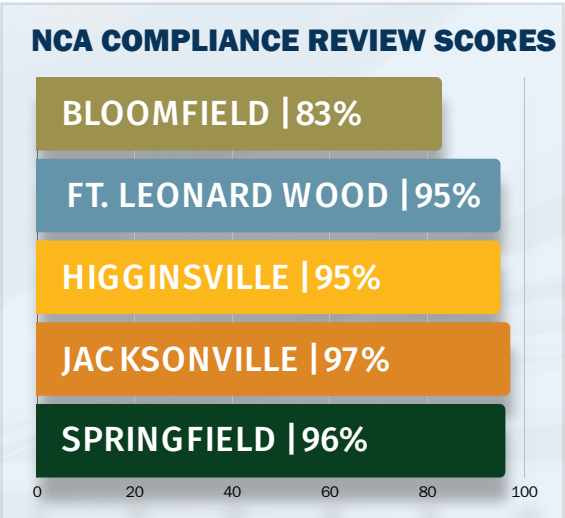
The Missouri Veterans Commission oversees a network of six state Veterans Cemeteries that ensure access to dignified resting places for Veterans and eligible dependents. There are five operational Cemeteries located in Bloomfield, Fort Leonard Wood, Higginsville, Jacksonville, and Springfield. The sixth cemetery is located at the Missouri Veterans Home – St. James and is closed to new interments.

The Cemeteries Program gathered momentum through the implementation of a fully digital pre-determination application and approval process, which allows Veterans to apply online and receive confirmation of eligibility more quickly. Additionally, each of the Cemeteries received heavy equipment replacements in an effort to maintain safety and keep operational productivity standards high.

MVC broke ground on a new columbarium wall for the Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Higginsville, which will allow MVC to continue serving Veterans for many years. The wall is eligible for a construction reimbursement grant of up to $2.1M from the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The wall will become operational during the second quarter of fiscal year 2026.

Section 2203 of Public Law 116-315, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, which amended 38 U.S.C. 2306(e) allowed the NCA to expand its authority to provide additional allowances for outer burial receptacles to grant-funded Cemeteries, such as the Missouri Veterans Cemeteries. Beginning in November 2024, MVC began applying for the additional allowance payments to help offset the cost of in-ground, casket burials. The additional funds help ensure MVC Cemetery operation standards remain high.

Every three years the NCA conducts standard on-site inspections, or “compliance reviews” of each Cemetery. During the review, 95 standards and measures are evaluated in categories including safety, interment operations, grounds maintenance, equipment maintenance, customer satisfaction, and headstone, marker, and niche cover. Two Cemeteries, Springfield and Jacksonville, received their NCA compliance review this year, both with high overall review scores.



In addition to onsite inspections, the NCA conducts customer satisfaction surveys. Next of kin and funeral home directors are surveyed in independently administered surveys. On average, the five Cemeteries scored in the top tiers across all categories:

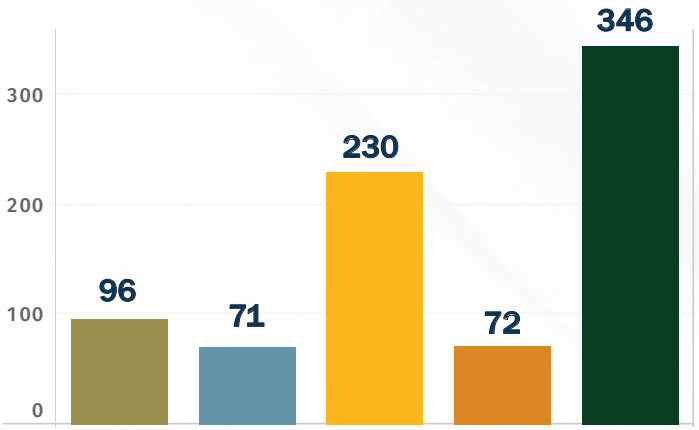
OVERALL EXPERIENCE	CEMETERY APPEARANCE
98.14%	99.38%
QUALITY OF SERVICE	COURTEOUS STAFF
97.91%	98.97%
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	RECOMMEND CEMETERY
98.13%	98.97%

2025 VETERANS INTERMENTS

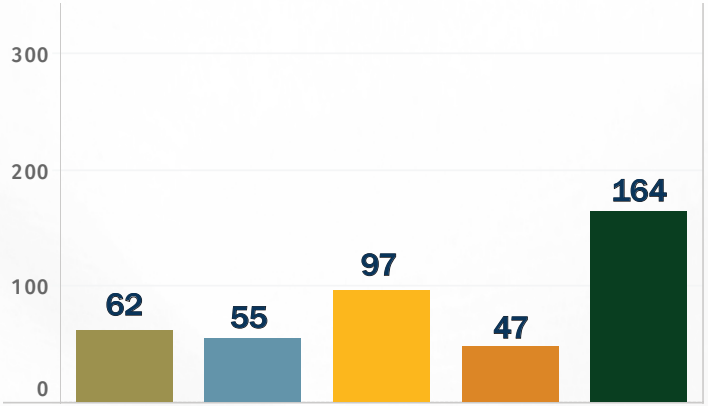
This year, 2,014 interments were conducted, and over 34,000 existing grave sites over 212 developed acres were maintained. Each year, the Cemeteries Program takes part in annual events to honor those interred on our grounds. Wreaths Across America allows the interred to be remembered and honored during the holiday season with donated wreaths. This year MVC team members and volunteers laid 12,750 wreaths. On Memorial Day, each cemetery participated in a remembrance ceremony, hosting over 1,200 visitors collectively and placing 25,000 flags.

FY25 TOTAL INTERMENTS FOR ALL CEMETERIES

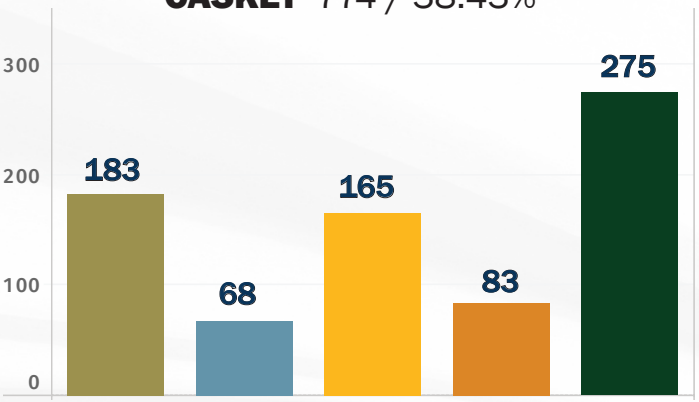
TOTAL COLUMBARIUM 815 / 40.47%



GROUND CREMATION 425 / 21.10%

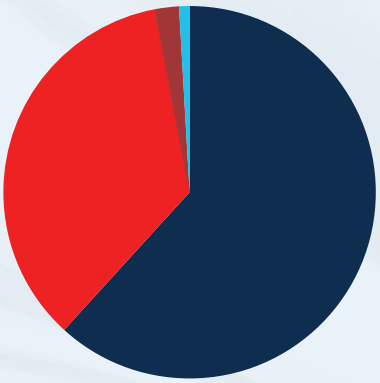


CASKET 774 / 38.43%



- BLOOMFIELD
- FT. LEONARD WOOD
- HIGGINSVILLE
- JACKSONVILLE
- SPRINGFIELD

VETERAN STATUS & GENDER



- MALE VETERAN **1,244 / 61.77%**
- FEMALE DEPENDENT **710/ 35.25%**
- FEMALE VETERAN **42 / 2.09%**
- MALE DEPENDENT **18 / 0.89%**

2025 VETERANS HOMES PROGRAM

Each of the seven Missouri Veterans Homes provide comprehensive skilled nursing services to Veterans needing such care by a licensed physician. A full-time team of registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) provide round-the-clock medical and nursing care.

Rehabilitative services, such as occupational, physical, and speech therapy, and recreational and restorative care, are provided under the direct supervision of licensed therapists and RNs. In addition to these services, Missouri Veterans Homes provide pharmaceutical medications, physician care, dietary services, barber and cosmetology services, and laundry services at no additional fee. These extra services set the Missouri Veterans Homes apart when it comes to service and value.

MVC picked up momentum, increasing licensed nurse staffing levels by 25%, certified medication technicians (CMT) by 20%, and RN supervisors by 10% during the 12-month period. More skilled team members mean MVC can care for more Veterans while maintaining quality and safety. We have set a goal to achieve a CNA fill rate of 80% by the end of FY26.

MVC believes in creating opportunities for its workforce and building a dedicated team of nursing and ancillary professionals to care for our nation's heroes. MVC continues its affiliation agreement with Lincoln University School of Nursing to sponsor CMT training in all seven Veterans Homes. This agreement allows MVC opportunities to provide additional training and certification for its workforce. The training facilitates upward career advancement and a high-demand certification. This year, MVC trained 25 CMTs through the affiliation agreement.

To increase efficiencies and foster opportunities and job skills, each Home recruits CNA students and organizes classes to train students to obtain a state certification as a Nursing Assistant. This year, MVC trained and the state certified 244 CNAs. These newly certified team members are contributing to lower vacancies, lower turnover, and higher retention. The program is a win for the students, MVC, and the Veterans we serve.

31,228 VOLUNTEER HOURS — TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS WERE EQUIVALENT TO HAVING 15 FULL TIME TEAM MEMBERS

1,276 VETERANS — LIVED AND WERE CARED FOR IN THE SEVEN VETERANS HOMES

25 CMT GRADUATES — STUDENTS PASSED THE CERTIFIED MEDICATION TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION COURSE

244 CNA GRADUATES — STUDENTS PASSED THE CERTIFIED NURSING AIDE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

CNA STUDENTS BY HOME

CAMERON	47
CAPE GIRARDEAU	25
MEXICO	36
MT. VERNON	29
ST. JAMES	32
ST. LOUIS	37
WARRENSBURG	38

2025 VETERANS HOMES PROGRAM

OVERALL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SCORES

CAMERON
96.8%

CAPE GIRARDEAU
92.6%

MEXICO
97.8%

MT. VERNON
94.0%

ST. JAMES
88.4%

ST. LOUIS
85.5%

WARRENSBURG
95.8%

All seven Missouri Veterans Homes received a “Best in Class” customer satisfaction award from Activated Insights, formally known as Pinnacle Quality Insight. Activated Insights is a customer satisfaction measurement firm that conducts over 150,000 phone surveys each year and work with more than 2,500 care providers. During the telephone survey, Veterans and their family members are asked open-ended questions and to rank facilities in specific categories. MVC had contracted with Pinnacle since 2019 to help obtain objective feedback on Veteran and family satisfaction as part of its commitment to providing the highest level of care to those we serve.

The aggregate customer satisfaction scores, expressed in a percentage, are based on a rating scale of one to five, five being the highest. The Overall Customer Satisfaction Score is the percentage of 4s and 5s MVC received as a 12-month average from July 2024 to June 2025. The Homes had a combined score of 93%.

100% of survey respondents between January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025 indicated they would recommend a Missouri Veterans Home to others.

In addition to being “Best in Class”, each Veterans Home received an annual survey from the VA. On-site inspectors ensure Veterans Homes are meeting each of the 157 federal standards.

2025 VETERANS SERVICE PROGRAM

The Missouri Veterans Commission employs 50 Veteran Service Officers (VSOs). Each VSO is accredited with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and completes 16 hours of continuous education training each year to maintain accreditation. The skills required to provide successful claims assistance and appeals representation to the Board of Veteran Appeals (BVA) include a vast knowledge base of VA laws, federal, state and local services and benefits available, and customer service skills. These skills and abilities allow our team to help Missouri Veterans understand their benefits and successfully provide Veterans and their families with the assistance needed to obtain their earned benefits and entitlements. The services they provide are 100% free to Veterans and their families.

Without professional assistance, many Veterans lose benefits they have earned. MVC's VSOs provide outstanding, dedicated service, individualize each application, and guide Veterans through the complex process. MVC's VSOs are Veterans themselves; they meet with Veterans face-to-face, and develop claims that net the largest possible benefit.

MVC VSOs have assisted Veterans and their families to obtain more than $794 million through federal benefits. These federal dollars enter the state as a direct result of the hard work of the Veterans Service Program. The funds are used by Missouri Veterans and their families and stimulate Missouri's economy.

MVC VSOs HAVE ASSISTED VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES OBTAIN MORE THAN

$794M

THROUGH FEDERAL BENEFITS

2,490

NEW COMPENSATION & PENSION CLAIMS RESULTING IN OVER

$21.8M

IN NEW AWARDS

During FY25, MVC VSOs filed 2,490 new compensation and pension claims, resulting in over $21.8M in new awards! This is a 12% increase in the number of new beneficiaries assisted by MVC VSOs since FY24. These amounts are directly attributable to the activities and efforts of the MVC VSOs. The work the VSO team does for Missouri's Veterans and their families is long-lasting and impactful. To better connect Veterans to service officers, MVC updated its GIS Service Officer Locator on its website, making it more user-friendly. The tool provides the location of the nearest Service Officer along with contact information, office hours, and other important information.

MVC's Veterans Service Program continues to move the needle while ensuring excellent customer service. 3,562 customer surveys were collected during the fiscal year. Of those surveys, 95% of respondents indicated they were satisfied or highly satisfied and would recommend the MVC VSOs to others.

ESTABLISHED/REESTABLISHED REPRESENTATION	6,561
COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR VA HEALTHCARE	836
ASSISTED WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, & DEPENDENTS W/ BENEFITS	875
BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS HEARINGS	98
RATING REVIEW BOARD HEARINGS	38
APPEALS MODERNIZATION ACT (AMA) SUBMISSIONS	983
APPLIED FOR VETERAN GRAVE MARKERS/MEDALLION	199

2025 VETERANS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Missouri Veterans Commission offers up to $1,600,000 in appropriations for grant funding and joint training and outreach efforts each year to be distributed in matching funds for federally chartered Veteran service organizations and municipal government agencies that are certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to process Veterans claims. These organizations assist MVC's mission of providing assistance in obtaining benefits Veterans and their families are legally entitled to, encouraging those eligible to apply, and successfully managing claims. In FY25, $1,586,965 in grant, joint training and outreach funds were distributed. The Veteran service organizations apply for grants through an application process and meet quarterly with MVC staff to discuss distributions and roundtable best practices.

FY25 GRANT DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS	$679,849
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS	$475,635
AMERICAN LEGION	$205,120
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA	$102,899
AMERICAN VETERANS	$59,911
ST. LOUIS COUNTY	$11,308
OUTREACH/TRAINING	$52,243

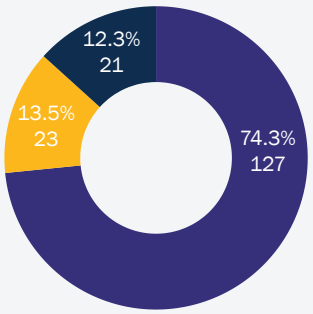
2025 VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

RSMo 42.022 charged MVC with creating a new program to aid in the efforts to prevent Veteran suicide. The new law requires MVC to review the provisions of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 and all subsequent regulations and compile an annual report before July 1, 2025, and before every July 1 thereafter. MVC quickly gained momentum, seeking out experts, taking a deep dive into the barriers that face Veterans, and engaging with leaders in the Veteran suicide prevention space.

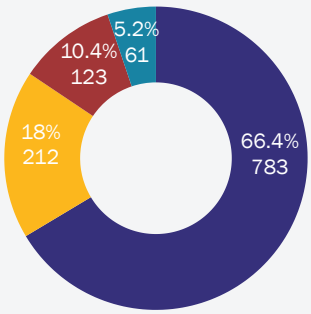
The new program quickly took shape. Under the name "Left of Boom," program branding and communication campaigns were designed. The Veteran Suicide Prevention Program's intent, planning framework, implementation strategies, and key performance indicators were established. These strategies are outlined in MVC's inaugural "Left of Boom Veterans Suicide Prevention Report," which can be found on our website at mvc.dps.mo.gov/suicideprevention.

The report shares the current landscape of Veteran Suicide and possible next steps the state can take to prevent these occurrences.

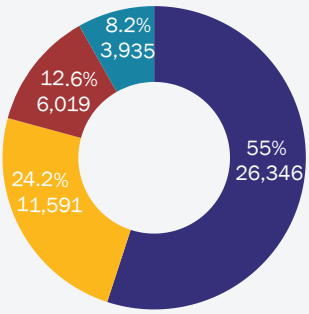
MISSOURI VETERANS SUICIDES



MISSOURI TOTAL SUICIDES



NATIONAL SUICIDES



FIREARMS SUFFOCATION POISONING OTHER SUICIDE OTHER & LOW-COUNT METHODS

*The VA Suicide rates presented are unadjusted rates per 100,000, calculated as the number of suicide deaths in 2022 divided by the estimated population and multiplied by 100,000.

2025 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

MVC's outreach efforts included impactful events statewide, continuing our commitment to honor all who have served. Throughout the year we observed upward momentum through the 155 in-person outreach events where our team directly communicated with over 3,500 Veterans. The year kicked off with the Missouri State Fair in August, where Veteran service officers and team members interacted face-to-face with over 640 Veterans. These important interactions helped MVC push its communication strategy, which emphasizes education, benefit awareness, and collaboration between state and federal partners.

MVC partnered with multiple state government agencies to cross-promote Veteran benefits and educate about MVC's important mission. Partnerships include coordination with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the annual Military Veteran Appreciation Hunts; collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to cross-promote events and Veteran benefits such as hunting and fishing permits; and partnering with the Missouri Office of Administration Office of Equal Opportunity for a Veterans Day Event. MVC added 26 new resources to the Missouri Benefits and Resource Portal for Veterans and Military, and welcomed over 70,000 new visitors to our website this year!

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS BY PLATFORM

40,884 FACEBOOK

441 INSTAGRAM

860 LINKEDIN

OVER 70K
NEW VISITORS ON THE MISSOURI BENEFITS & RESOURCES PORTAL

Social media continues to be a key driver in how MVC interacts with the Veteran community. Our reach continues to improve. In FY25 MVC reached 9% more on Facebook, 13% more on Instagram and 24% more on LinkedIn. We encourage everyone to follow or "like" our pages.

MVC's legal outreach team continues to carry the momentum from events that began in 2022. MVC established free legal clinics for drafting wills and powers of attorney for Veterans and their spouses. This is a way MVC helps Veterans plan for the unknown. This year, MVC's Office of General Counsel continued the all-volunteer program with local attorneys assisting 461 Veterans and their spouses. In addition to these services, the team provided "Planning for the Future", a free informational guide to help Veterans and their families navigate options available as they age. The initiative has been highly successful, exponentially increasing the number of Veterans served.

WILLS & TRUSTS	380
HEALTHCARE POWER OF ATTORNEY	378
ADVANCED DIRECTIVES	324
GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY	373
BENEFICIARY DEEDS	443

$949,000
FY25 TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS FOR VETERANS & SPOUSES

Since inception, the will clinics have served 2,466 Veterans and their spouses, constituting approximately $4,421,000 in savings.

MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION